(b) the time by which the remaining village panchayats are likely to be connected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total of 24,752 village Panchayats, 22249 have been covered with Telephone facility. District-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) All the villages including village panchayats are likely to be covered with telephone facility by the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Number of Gram Panchayats provided with VPT in Maharashtra State

S.No.	Field G.M.	Name of the Districts	Total Gram Panchayats	Telephone facility in Gram Panch-ayats
1	2	3	4	5
1.		Akola	936	936
2.		Amravati	804	685
3.		Bhandara	1046	845
4.		Buldhana	828	812
5.		Chandrapur	804	655
6.		Gadchiroli	458	279
7.		Wardha	481	481
8.		Yeotmal	1123	779
		Sub Total	6480	5472
9.		Raigad	660	660
10.		Ratnagiri	768	499
11.		Sindudurg	388	314
		Sub Total	1816	1473
12.		Nasik	1224	1175
13.		Dhule	962	856
		Sub Total	2186	2031
14.		Jalna	557	557
15.		Beed	924	636
16.		Latur	637	637
17.		Osmanabad	544	429
18.		Nanded	1163	1060
19.		Parbhani	1073	806
		Sub Total	4898	4125
20.		Jalgaon	1062	1062
21.		Sangli	631	588
22.		Satara	1213	1083
23.		Solapur	931	931
24.		Ahmednagar	1160	1160
25.		Aurangabad	693	693
26.		Thane	882	820
27.		Kolhapur	913	913
28.		Nagpur	710	710
29.		Pune	1177	1003
		Total	24752	22064

[Translation]

STD/PCO Allotment Rules

1517. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the rules regarding allotment of STD and PCO booths to handicapped persons and ex-servicemen to extend communications facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Meagre Amount Spent on Passenger Amenities

1518. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the neww-item captioned "Railways spent meagre amount on amenities";

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the amount spent on passenger amenities during each of the last three years out of the total revenue earned; and

(c) the reasons for allocation of inadequate amount for providing passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Passenger Amenities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic handled. Allocation of funds for passenger amenity works has no relation with the revenue earned.

Railways are very much alive to the needs of the travelling public and the requirements have been taken